

THEME
SESSION



*Methodologies to assess the
impact of offshore wind
development on fishery
data collections*

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CM 287: Methods used in monitoring fish communities and what we can learn from it for Baltic Sea no-take zones

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In the German EEZ of the Baltic Sea the drastic expansion of offshore wind farms, as well as the establishment of marine protected areas, require monitoring of the marine fauna that is as little invasive as possible. However, traditional survey methods, especially for demersal fish, are based on the use of fishing trawls and thus invasive.

A first step in developing less invasive monitoring programmes is the identification of an appropriate method. The particular question and objective of the monitoring is fundamental for the decision. However, other aspects also play a role. In a literature review, we have identified different categories and assigned them to their respective sampling strategies, target species and habitats, types of information, resources needed and disadvantages and advantages. From this, we developed a fit for purpose guide to support decision-making for a suitable method. Finally, we applied this guide on the case of Baltic Sea no-take zones.

Keywords: underwater video, fish assemblages, Baltic Sea, species richness, RUV, experimental design

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